

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 FAA-00 L-03 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1918

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0288

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ESTC ETRN MZ

SUBJ: PROPOSED EXIMBANK FINANCING FOR AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 74920, APRIL 20

1. SALE OF SINGLE SHRIKE COMMANDER TO TRANSPORTES AEREOS OF MOZAMBIQUE, LDA (TAM) OF BEIRA APPEARS GENUINE AND ANSWERS WELL- ESTABLISHED NEED FOR AIRTAXI AIRCRAFT BY THAT COMPANY. JORGE GUERRA, DIRECTOR OF TAM, IS MOZAMBIQUE' S AIR TAXI PIONEER AND RESPECTED BUSINESSMAN OF GOOD STANDING. HENCE CONGEN HAS NO OBJECTION TO EXIMBANK CONSIDERATION FOR THIS TRANSACTION.

2. LOCAL CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES HAVE AS YET NO KNOWLEDGE OF FOUR SHRIKE COMMANDERS MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTEL AS BEING CONSIDERED FOR " TRANSPORTES AEREOS COMERCIAIS OF LOURENCO MARQUES". THE ONLY TWO AIRTAXI COMPANIES BASED IN LOURENCO MARQUES ARE COMPANHIA AEREA DO SUL DO SAVE (CASS), P. O. BOX 4229, AND SERVICO AEREO DE MOZAMBIQUE LTDA (SAM), P. O. BOX 2657. WOULD THUS APPRECIATE VERIFICATION OF EVENTUAL PURCHASER. IS IT PERHAPS TRANSPORTES AEREOS COMERCIAIS (TAC) OF NAMPULA?

3. COMMENT: IN GENERAL, AIRTAXI BUSINESS IN MOZAMBIQUE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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EXPANDING RAPIDLY. FOR EXAMPLE, TETE- SONGO RUN COULD USE MANY MORE AIRCRAFT THAN PRESENTLY AVAILABLE DUE TO TOURIST VISITS AND TO DESIRE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL WORKING AT DAM TO ESCAPE ISOLATION BY GETTING BACK TO " CIVILIZATION"

FROM TIME TO TIME. ROAD TRAVEL BETWEEN TETE AND SONGO IS BY MILITARY CONVOY ONLY. DEMAND MAY DECREASE WHEN CABORA BASSA IS COMPLETED. THUS, CIVIL AERONAUTICS AUTHORITIES HAVE PROBLEM IN DETERMINING HOW LARGE A PRESENT EXPANSION BY AIRTAXI COMPANIES OPERATING TETE- SONGO ROUTE CAN BE JUSTIFIED WITHOUT BURDENING THEM WITH FUTURE EXCESS CAPACITY WHEN DAM IS FINISHED.

4. UP TO NOW AIRTAXI COMPANIES HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED TO FIVE PLANES EACH, WITH TOP CAPACITY OF NINE PASSENGERS PER PLANE, SO AS NOT TO COMPETE WITH DETA, MOZAMBIQUE' S INTERNAL AIRLINE. AIRTAXI COMPANIES ARE TRYING TO GET AROUND THIS BY PURCHASING ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT FOR " CHARTER" PURPOSES ONLY. THESE WILL PRESUMABLY BE USED FOR SPECIFIC CHARTER AND AS REPLACEMENTS FOR ANY OF THE ORIGINAL FIVE AIR TAXIS WHICH MIGHT BECOME INOPERABLE. CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES ARE NOW CONSIDERING CHANGING RULES TO PERMIT AIRTAXI SERVICES TO OPERATE PLANES WITH CAPACITY FOR 18 OR 20 PASSENGERS EACH.

5. ANOTHER FACTOR IS THAT DETA ITSELF CHARTERS PLANES FROM AIRTAXI COMPANIES TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIZED SERVICES TO VARIOUS PLACES IN INTERIOR WHERE AIR TAXIS CANNOT OPERATE PROFITABLY. VAN OSS

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